

Senate File 2303 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2303
BY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3148)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for persons associated with licensed
2 veterinarians, and providing for fees.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 169.3, Code 2011, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsections:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 4A. "*Certified veterinary assistant*" means
4 a person who meets all of the following requirements:

5 a. Has successfully completed a veterinary assistant
6 program approved by the board or has received a minimum of two
7 years of on-the-job training under the direction of a licensed
8 veterinarian as prescribed by the board.

9 b. Has successfully passed one or more examinations as
10 prescribed by the board.

11 c. Performs duties associated with the practice of
12 veterinary medicine as provided in section 169.20 and
13 prescribed by rule by the board.

14 NEW SUBSECTION. 4B. "*Certified veterinary technician*" means
15 a person who meets all of the following requirements:

16 a. Is a graduate of an accredited program of veterinary
17 technology approved by the board or is currently registered in
18 this state as a veterinary technician.

19 b. Has successfully passed one or more examinations as
20 prescribed by the board.

21 c. Performs duties associated with the practice of
22 veterinary medicine as provided in section 169.20 and
23 prescribed by rule by the board.

24 NEW SUBSECTION. 7A. "*Noncredentialed veterinary assistant*"
25 means a person employed by a licensed veterinarian who is not
26 a certified veterinary technician or certified veterinary
27 assistant, and who performs duties associated with the practice
28 of veterinary medicine as provided in section 169.20 and
29 prescribed by rule by the board.

30 Sec. 2. Section 169.3, subsection 12, Code 2011, is amended
31 by striking the subsection.

32 Sec. 3. Section 169.4, subsection 9, Code 2011, is amended
33 by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu thereof the
34 following:

35 9. Any certified veterinary technician, certified

1 veterinary assistant, or noncredentialed veterinary assistant
2 employed by a licensed veterinarian from performing duties as
3 provided in section 169.20 and prescribed by rule by the board.

4 Sec. 4. Section 169.5, subsection 7, paragraph i, Code 2011,
5 is amended by striking the paragraph and inserting in lieu
6 thereof the following:

7 *i.* Adopt, amend, or repeal rules relating to certified
8 veterinary technicians, certified veterinary assistants, and
9 noncredentialed veterinary assistants, as provided in section
10 169.20. However, a veterinary technician certificate or
11 veterinary assistant certificate shall not be suspended or
12 revoked by less than a three-fifths vote of the entire board in
13 a proceeding conducted in compliance with section 17A.12.

14 Sec. 5. Section 169.20, Code 2011, is amended by striking
15 the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

16 **169.20 Certified veterinary technicians, certified veterinary**
17 **assistants, and noncredentialed veterinary assistants.**

18 1. A licensed veterinarian may employ one or more certified
19 veterinary technicians, certified veterinary assistants,
20 or noncredentialed veterinary assistants to perform duties
21 associated with the practice of veterinary medicine as provided
22 in this section and prescribed by rules adopted by the board.
23 A veterinarian may employ a certified veterinary assistant,
24 certified veterinary technician, or noncredentialed veterinary
25 assistant for any purpose provided by rules adopted by the
26 board, other than for diagnosis, prescription, or surgery. The
27 rules adopted by the board under this subsection shall provide,
28 at a minimum, for all of the following:

29 *a.* The qualifications and standards of conduct of a
30 certified veterinary technician, certified veterinary
31 assistant, or noncredentialed veterinary assistant.

32 *b.* The type or scope of duties that may be performed
33 by a certified veterinary technician, certified veterinary
34 assistant, or noncredentialed veterinary assistant.

35 *c.* The level of supervision required to be performed

1 by a licensed veterinarian when employing a certified
2 veterinary technician, certified veterinary assistant, or a
3 noncredentialed veterinary assistant.

4 2. The board shall provide for the issuance of a certificate
5 to a certified veterinary technician or certified veterinary
6 assistant based on education, experience, training, or other
7 criteria established by rules adopted by the board.

8 3. The board shall regulate certified veterinary
9 technicians, certified veterinary assistants, and
10 noncredentialed veterinary assistants as provided by rules
11 adopted by the board, including but not limited to any of the
12 following:

13 a. Investigations.

14 b. Disciplinary action, including the suspension or
15 revocation of a certificate issued by the board. Any
16 disciplinary action shall be taken in the same manner as
17 provided in section 169.14. The board shall suspend or
18 revoke a certificate issued by the board under this section in
19 compliance with section 17A.12.

20 EXPLANATION

21 BACKGROUND — VETERINARY ASSISTANTS. This bill amends
22 provisions relating to the employment of a veterinary assistant
23 by a licensed veterinarian (Code section 169.20). Currently,
24 a veterinary assistant certified by the board may perform
25 services associated with the practice of veterinary medicine
26 other than diagnosis, prescription, or surgery, if acting under
27 the direct supervision of such veterinarian and in compliance
28 with rules adopted by the board of veterinary medicine (board).

29 BILL — AUTHORIZED PERSONS DESIGNATED. The bill renames
30 the term "veterinary assistant" as "certified veterinary
31 assistant" and establishes two other classes of persons who may
32 be employed by a licensed veterinarian: a certified veterinary
33 technician and a noncredentialed veterinary assistant. Under
34 the bill, a certified veterinary technician must have graduated
35 from an accredited program of technology as approved by the

1 board and have passed one or more examinations prescribed
2 by the board. A certified veterinary assistant must have
3 completed a program approved by the board or have on-the-job
4 experience and pass an examination prescribed by the board.
5 The bill also provides for a noncredentialed veterinary
6 assistant who is someone other than a certified veterinary
7 assistant or certified veterinary technician. The bill
8 authorizes each class of person to perform duties associated
9 with the practice of veterinary medicine, but allows the board
10 to distinguish further their respective scopes of authority.
11 The bill provides that a certified veterinary assistant,
12 certified veterinary technician, or noncredentialed veterinary
13 assistant cannot provide diagnosis, prescription, or surgery.
14 The board may provide for certification fees in the same manner
15 as is currently provided for veterinary assistants (Code
16 section 169.5(9)).

17 BILL — AUTHORIZED PERSONS REGULATED. The bill authorizes
18 the board to regulate certified veterinary assistants,
19 certified veterinary technicians, and noncredentialed
20 veterinary assistants, including by conducting investigations
21 and instituting disciplinary action, including the suspension
22 or revocation of a certificate in the same manner as currently
23 applies to veterinary assistants (Code section 169.5(7)(i)).